

I could continue to list all of Deacon Willie James' accomplishments, because they go on and on. I will just say that the world will truly miss this deeply involved civic community organizer. I am happy that I had the opportunity to work with him on many special projects and to live during his lifetime.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Deacon Willie James.

REVITALIZING THOMSON, ILLINOIS

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2009

Mr. MANZULLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to the Administration's plan to link economic development in the district that I have the honor to represent to the transfer of dangerous terrorists from Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

The hardworking people of northern Illinois have waited too long for the promise of economic stimulus and are looking for good paying employment opportunities. It is absolutely unnecessary to condition job creation with the wholesale importation of over 200 battle-hardened terrorists that could dampen long-term economic growth in that region.

Today, I am introducing legislation to authorize the federal government to purchase the maximum security correctional facility located in Thomson, Illinois for the purpose of alleviating an already overcrowded federal penal system while prohibiting the transfer of terrorist detainees from Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. If passed, my legislation would bring good jobs to northern Illinois while keeping our communities safe. Thomson and the surrounding rural areas of Carroll County suffer from chronic high unemployment and population loss. Currently, Carroll County has an unemployment rate of 10.5 percent. Thomson has an unemployment rate of 11.8 percent and has unfortunately experienced a negative population growth rate of 4.5 percent since 2000. Fulfilling the promise of the Thomas Correctional Center will bring eagerly anticipated economic activity to the region.

For years, I have been encouraging the State of Illinois to utilize this prison after so much was invested to build the facility. Unfortunately, my requests went unheeded. Now, we have a unique opportunity to help both the federal government with its need to reduce prison overcrowding and the local community with its need for economic development.

The Federal Bureau of Prisons estimates that purchasing the facility near Thomson will cost approximately \$120 million. My legislation provides sufficient flexibility in funding to purchase and transfer federal prisoners to this facility. However, the legislation specifically prohibits the federal government from housing any terrorist detainees currently at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, at this site or any other federal, state, or local facility in Illinois.

Madam Speaker, the good people of Thomson and the rest of Illinois' 16th Congressional District have waited too long for this government to fulfill its promise to "save or create" jobs. Given the overcrowding in America's prison system, let's use the Thomson correctional facility to house non-terrorist prisoners and create the jobs so vital for our families.

Now is the time to stop linking job creation to the transfer of terrorist detainees and work towards a sensible compromise on this issue. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

RECOGNIZING MAJOR NANCY J. JOHNSON—SCOTTSDALE HEALTHCARE'S "SALUTE TO MILITARY" HONOREE

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2009

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding member of the Armed Forces from my home state of Arizona. Each month, Scottsdale Healthcare honors military personnel who perform exceptionally in the medical field in defense of our country. Scottsdale Healthcare has recognized Major Nancy J. Johnson for the month of November.

I commend Scottsdale Healthcare for paying tribute to Major Johnson for her life-saving expertise and honorable service to our country.

Major Johnson distinguished herself through her outstanding performance as a Chief Nurse in Qatar. She led her team and provided superior medical support to more than 8,000 deployed military members. Her clinical expertise and management skills guaranteed expeditious transport of critically wounded soldiers to higher levels of care that saved lives, limbs and eyesight.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing this courageous Air Force Nurse Corps leader for serving our country and protecting the lives of her fellow service men and women in combat.

JOHN L. RAY

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2009

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor John L. Ray, in celebration of the 100 years since the Charleston Public Library opened in 1909.

John V. Ray Sr., a library patron, held the position as president of the library board for more than 30 years, where he helped write the Kanawha County Public Library Act that would see its way through the West Virginia Legislature. This guaranteed that libraries would be granted a share of the property taxes which came to the Kanawha County Board of Education, the Kanawha County Commission and the city of Charleston. It was a key piece of legislation that kept a stream of funding for libraries.

His son, John L. Ray followed in family tradition when he took over as Kanawha County Public Library board president in 1988. An avid library supporter himself, John had a vision for the county and what purpose libraries would serve. His plan brought new buildings to Cross Lanes, Sissonville, a combined public/school library at Riverside High, and a designed replacement for the downtown Charleston library.

An institution that serves all people, libraries remain a beacon for communities because of

the more than twenty years John has spent as board president. He led the rapid development as card catalogs were replaced by electronic catalogs. He came up with a long-range plan that would bring new buildings to the county to ensure that libraries could continue to serve their public function.

It is an honor to recognize John L. Ray. With his hard work and leadership, we are able to celebrate 100 years since the opening of the Charleston Public Library. It says great things about West Virginia to have people like you represent our great state.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. AARON SCHOCK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2009

Mr. SCHOCK. Madam Speaker, in accordance with the Republican adopted standards on earmarks, I submit the below detailed explanation of the Peoria Riverfront Development, Peoria, Illinois.

Bill Number: H.R. 3183—Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010

Provisions/Account: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers—Investigations

Name and Address of Requesting Entity: The entity to receive funding for this project is the Rock Island District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers located at Clock Tower Building, P.O. Box 2004, Rock Island, IL 61204.

Description of Request: The funding would be used to enhance aquatic habitat in the Peoria Lake.

CONGRATULATING "THE WAVE"

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 17, 2009

Mr. WEINER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the extraordinary work of the journalists, editors, and staff of the Wave, a neighborhood newspaper in Rockaway, Queens that was recently named "The Best Neighborhood Paper" in New York City by New York's Village Voice.

The Wave has been serving the many communities of the Rockaway peninsula for 116 years. Each Friday, residents read this venerable publication not only to stay informed about the peninsula, but also to make sure their voices are heard and not forgotten by City Hall, Albany, and our nation's capital.

The Wave's managing editor Howard Schwach, and all its reporters have been instrumental in turning this local weekly into the most widely read newspaper in Rockaway. Through their work these journalists remind us all of the essential role that the neighborhood press play in telling the stories often missed in the commotion of cable television and the twenty-four hour news cycle.

This outstanding newspaper has covered everything from shootings and burglaries to the mystery surrounding the abrupt shuttering of a long-time Catholic high school. Furthermore, it provides a crucial forum for residents